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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5401  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 7841  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 2214  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 1768  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 3901  
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 7018  
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 2007  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY 4427  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY 5596  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY 2804  
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG PRIORITY 0508  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 4984  
RUAGAAA/COMUSKOREA SEOUL KOR PRIORITY  
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI PRIORITY 6497  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 003166

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TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#) [KN](#)

SUBJECT: RADIO BROADCASTING TO THE DPRK

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer. Reasons 1.4 (B)(D)

¶1. (C) Summary: Kazuhiro Taguchi, Acting Director of the Policy Planning Division in the Prime Minister's office overseeing abduction issues told Embassy Tokyo on July 5 that the Japanese government would begin short-wave radio broadcasts to the DPRK on July 9. Japanese officials believe the radio programs will: 1) provide encouragement to abductees who Japan believes still reside in the DPRK; and 2) reach DPRK citizens who might have contact with or provide information on the whereabouts of abductees. End Summary.

Japan's Broadcasting to the DPRK  
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¶2. (C) On July 5, Kazuhiro Taguchi, Acting Director of the Policy Division at the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue, informed Embassy Tokyo that Japan would begin a short-wave broadcasting program from Taiwan to the DPRK beginning at midnight (DPRK time) July 9. The Japanese government had subcontracted the radio broadcasts to the Japan Center of Intercultural Communications, a public interest cooperation supervised by the Foreign Ministry, which would then use VT Communications to transmit the broadcast, Taguchi said. The programs would be in Japanese and Korean, each lasting thirty minutes, Monday through Sunday. Taguchi explained that VT Communication would broadcast the same program every night for one week before altering the contents. The Japanese government publicly announced the start of broadcasts on July ¶9.

¶3. (C) Taguchi said the broadcasts were designed to: 1) encourage abductees who Japanese authorities believe still reside in the DPRK; 2) inform DPRK citizens who may have contact with abductees about Japanese policy toward the DPRK; and 3) ask for help in obtaining information on abductees. The programs will consist of twenty minutes of personal messages from family members and ten minutes of a mixture of news on the abduction issue, music and domestic current events. Taguchi said the Japanese government did not consider the broadcasts to be a "news program," but rather a "PR" opportunity. Asked to explain the difference between

these terms, Taguchi replied that because the Japanese government does not own, operate or control radio broadcasting stations, authorities hesitate to label the broadcasts as "news." He continued that the program will focus on factual information, with other comments or viewpoints explicitly identified as Japanese government opinion.

#### Possible U.S. Assistance

14. (C) Taguchi noted that because NHK already provides international short-wave news broadcasts on a variety of subjects which can be accessed from the DPRK, the Japanese government did not currently feel the need to conduct non-abduction related programming, or regional news features. Japan planned, therefore, to begin the new broadcasts with messages directly related to the abduction issue. Asked how the U.S. might contribute to the broadcasts, Taguchi stated that because Japan was so inexperienced in radio broadcasting to the DPRK, Tokyo might need assistance with determining and assessing the targeted audience in North Korea. In the future, the U.S. might also be able to assist with program content, if the broadcasts were to expand beyond the abduction issue to a wider range of topics.

#### NGO Collaboration

15. (C) Taguchi observed that there were no plans to collaborate with the Commission on Missing Japanese Kidnapped Probably Related to North Korea (COMJAN), whose "Shiokaze" radio broadcast reaches the DPRK. He said Japanese

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authorities consider the two programs different in content and approach, observing that COMJAN broadcasts could be politicized, for example, by calls for the collapse of the Kim Jong Il regime. Taguchi said collaboration with Korean NGOs might be possible in the future, noting that the Japanese government had already consulted with ROK broadcasters in creating program content for the newly launched VT short-wave broadcasts.  
SCHIEFFER